

**Mary Ann S. Smego
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January 11, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

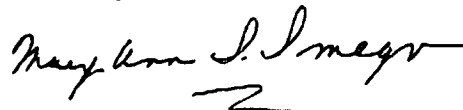
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing to express my relief at the fact that the Department of Justice has finally reached a settlement in the Microsoft antitrust case. I don't feel that this case should have ever been brought against them in the first place and am happy to finally see it over and done with, at least at the Federal level.

The settlement answers many of the complaints that Microsoft's competitors had with the company. Now they not only have to make it easier for people to write programs for Windows, but there's now a federal review board to make sure they comply with all the terms of the settlement.

I appreciate you taking the time to hear me out on this matter and I hope that you will do everything in your power to make sure that the rest of the states who haven't settled quickly do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mary Ann S. Smego", with a stylized flourish underneath.

Mary Ann S. Smego